CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1.   1.   A method for on-access computer virus scanning of files in an efficient
2   manner, comprising the steps of:
3   (a)   identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus detection actions
4   based at least in part on the identified process if no identifier is assigned
5   thereto;
6   (b)   assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is assigned thereto;
7   (c)   selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on the identifier if
8   existent; and
9   (d)   performing the virus detection actions on the files.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identifier is cleared upon the
2   occurrence of a predetermined event.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the identifier is reused after being
2   cleared.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the event is the termination of an
2   application.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the identifier is assigned by the
2   application.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the application is adapted for
2   executing the process.

1   7.   A computer program product for on-access computer virus scanning of files

2   in an efficient manner, comprising:

3   (a)   computer code for identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus

4   detection actions based at least in part on the identified process if no

5   identifier is assigned thereto;

6   (b)   computer code for assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is

7   assigned thereto;

8   (c)   computer code for selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on

9   the identifier if existent; and

10   (d)   computer code for performing the virus detection actions on the files.

1   8.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the identifier is

2   cleared upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the identifier is

2   reused after being cleared.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the event is the

2   termination of an application.

1   11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the identifier

2   is assigned by the application.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the

2   application is adapted for executing the process.

1   13.   A system for on-access computer virus scanning of files in an efficient

2   manner, comprising:

3   (a)   logic for identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus detection

4   actions based at least in part on the identified process if no identifier is

5   assigned thereto;

6	(b)	logic for assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is assigned
7		thereto;
8	(c)	logic for selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on the
9		identifier if existent; and
10	(d)	logic for performing the virus detection actions on the files.

| 1 | 14. | The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the identifier is cleared upon the |
| 2 | | occurrence of a predetermined event. |

| 1 | 15. | The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the identifier is reused after being |
| 2 | | cleared. |

| 1 | 16. | The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the event is the termination of an |
| 2 | | application. |

| 1 | 17. | The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the identifier is assigned by the |
| 2 | | application. |

| 1 | 18. | The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the application is adapted for |
| 2 | | executing the process. |